



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION: National Highway System
Legislation as Related to the Manual on
Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**

Date: February 20, 1996

RECEIVED
Reg. 4 F.H.W.A.

From: Executive Director

Reply to
Attn. of: HHS-10

FEB 27 1996

To: Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Federal Lands Highway Program Administrator

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you of recent legislation concerning MUTCD-related provisions as contained in the National Highway System (NHS) Designation Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-59). Section 306 of P.L. 104-59 amends Title 23, U.S.C., to allow sponsorship identification signs on call boxes along the NHS. Section 353 provides exceptions to MUTCD provisions for two locations.

Section 111 of Title 23, U.S.C., is amended as follows:

"(c) MOTORIST CALL BOXES

(1) IN GENERAL.--Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State may permit the placement of motorist call boxes on rights-of-way of the National Highway System. Such motorist call boxes may include the identification and sponsorship logos of such call boxes.

(2) SPONSORSHIP LOGOS.--

(A) APPROVAL BY STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES.--All call box installations displaying sponsorship logos under this subsection shall be approved by the highway agencies having jurisdiction of the highway on which they are located.

(B) SIZE ON BOX.--A sponsorship logo may be placed on the call box in a dimension not to exceed the size of the call box or a total dimension in excess of 12 inches by 18 inches.

(C) SIZE ON IDENTIFICATION SIGN.--Sponsorship logos in a dimension not to exceed 12 inches by 30 inches may be displayed on a call box identification sign affixed to the call box post.

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- (D) SPACING OF SIGNS.--Sponsorship logos affixed to an identification sign on a call box post may be located on the rights-of-way at intervals not more frequently than 1 per every 5 miles.
- (E) DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE STATE.--Within a State, at least 20 percent of the call boxes displaying sponsorship logos shall be located on highways outside of urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000.
- (3) NONSAFETY HAZARDS.--The call boxes and their location, posts, foundations, and mountings shall be consistent with requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices or any requirements deemed necessary by the Secretary to assure that the call boxes shall not be a safety hazard to motorists."

These provisions of Section 306 will be incorporated into the next edition of the MUTCD.

Supports for motorist call boxes are required to meet the breakaway requirements of Section 7 of the "AASHTO Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaries, and Traffic Signals (1994)" and the accessibility requirements contained in the "Americans With Disabilities Act (1991)."

The identification signs referred to in subsection (c)(2)(C) shall have a blue background with white legend and border similar to those described in Section 2G-5, Specific Service Signing, of the MUTCD. The sponsorship LOGO can be either the sponsor's identification symbol/trademark or a word message. If a word message is used, it should be on a blue background with a white legend.

The AASHTO recommends 1/2 mile spacing for call boxes as an optimum interval. On high volume roads with average daily traffic flows of 100,000 or more vehicles, 1/4 mile spacing may be considered. On certain rural roads, 1 mile may be appropriate.

In addition to the above, the following provisions were included in Section 353 of P.L. 104-59:

The "Right Turn on Red Without Stopping" signs in the State of Oregon are deemed to comply with the requirements of MUTCD Section 2B-4.

The town of Bristol, Rhode Island, is authorized to permit the use of a red, white, and blue centerline on its Main Street. This provision is deemed to comply with the requirements of MUTCD Section 3B-1.

These provisions of Section 353 will be incorporated into the next edition of the MUTCD.

If there are any questions on these matters, please contact Mr. Ernest Huckaby, Traffic Control Devices Team Leader in the Office of Highway Safety, at 202-366-9064.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Kane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony R. Kane